

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-51. (Canceled)

52. (currently amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data system operating on a first network device and a second network device, the method backup and retrieval system comprising:

providing a management software component that operates on the first network device;

providing a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component that operate on at least a second network device; and

~~a storage device communicatively coupled to~~ wherein the media software components are communicatively coupled to a storage device;

selecting wherein the management software component selects a media software component among the plurality of media software components using the management software component;

controlling and controls the selected media software component using the management software component; and

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using wherein the selected media software component which comprises at least one software module configured directed to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device; and

recording a physical address on the storage device where particular information is located using the at least one software module which ~~comprisesing~~ an indexing software module directed configured to recording a physical address on the storage device where particular information is located.

53. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 52, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using wherein the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software

module configured ~~directed~~ to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, and managing the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device using the second software module which ~~comprisesing~~ a data mover software module configured ~~directed~~ to ~~manageing~~ the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

54. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 52, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using wherein the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software module ~~directed~~ configured to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, and physical media of the storage device using the second software module which ~~comprisesing~~ a library software module configured ~~directed~~ to controlling physical media of the storage device.

55. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 52, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage device using wherein the management software component which comprises at least one software module configured ~~directed~~ to ~~coordinateing~~ usage of the storage device.

56. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 55, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using wherein the at least one software module which comprises an application software module configured ~~directed~~ to ~~storeing~~ backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

57. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 55, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using wherein the at least one software module which comprises an archive software module configured ~~directed~~ to ~~tracking~~ the location of data across library media.

58. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 55, further comprising managing system processes using wherein the at least one software module which comprises a jobs software module configured ~~directed~~ to ~~manageing~~ system processes.

59. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 55, further comprising tracking usage of the storage device using wherein the at least one software module which comprises a media usage software module configured directed to tracking usage of the storage device.

60. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 55, further comprising coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device using wherein the at least one software module which comprises a data transfer software module configured directed to ~~coordinate~~ the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

61. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 52, further comprising providing a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

62. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 61, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

63. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 61, further comprising a third network device, wherein the client software component operates on ~~a~~ the third network device.

64. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 52, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using wherein the selected media software component ~~communicates the physical address to the management software component~~.

65. (currently amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data system operating across a network containing a plurality of network devices, the method backup and retrieval system comprising:

providing a management software component that operates on a first network device of the plurality of network devices;

providing a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component; ~~and~~

wherein the media software components are communicatively coupled to a storage device ~~communicatively coupled to the media software components and the media software components are capable of~~ controlling backups to the storage device;

selecting a media software component among the plurality of media software components using ~~wherein the management software component selects a media software component among the plurality of media software components; and~~

controlling the selected media software component using the management software component ~~the selected media software component; and~~

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using ~~wherein the selected media software component~~ which comprises at least one software module ~~directed~~ configured to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device; and

recording a physical address on the storage device where particular information is located using the at least one software module which ~~comprises~~ ing an indexing software module ~~directed~~ configured to recording a physical address on the storage device where particular information is located.

66. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 65, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using ~~wherein~~ the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software module configured ~~directed~~ to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, and managing the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device using the second software module which ~~comprises~~ ing a data mover software module configured ~~directed~~ to ~~manage~~ ing the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

67. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 65, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using ~~wherein~~ the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software module ~~directed~~ configured to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device; and physical media of the storage device using the second software module which

comprising a library software module configured directed to controlling physical media of the storage device.

68. (currently amended) The system method of claim 65, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage device using wherein the management software component which comprises at least one software module directed-configured to coordinateing usage of the storage device.

69. (currently amended) The system method of claim 68, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using wherein the at least one software module which comprises an application software module directed-configured to storeing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

70. (currently amended) The system method of claim 68, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using wherein the at least one software module which comprises an archive software module directed-configured to tracking the location of data across library media.

71. (currently amended) The system method of claim 68, further comprising managing system processes using wherein the at least one software module which comprises a jobs software module directed-configured to manageing system processes.

72. (currently amended) The system method of claim 68, further comprising tracking usage of the storage device using wherein the at least one software module which comprises a media usage software module configured directed to tracking usage of the storage device.

73. (currently amended) The system method of claim 68, further comprising coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device using wherein the at least one software module which comprises a data transfer software module directed-configured to coordinateing the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

74. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 65, further comprising providing a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

75. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 74, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

76. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 74, ~~further comprising a third network device~~, wherein the client software component operates on a ~~the~~ third network device.

77. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 65, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using ~~wherein the selected media software component communicates the physical address to the management software component~~.

78. (currently amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data in ~~system for a network, the network~~ comprising a plurality of computing devices, the plurality of computing devices comprising a first computing device and a second computing device, the method ~~backup and retrieval system~~ comprising:

providing a management software component that operates ~~running~~ on the first computing device, the management software component controlling a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component;

wherein the media software components are communicatively coupled to at least one backup device ~~communicatively coupled to the media software components~~; and

providing a client software component that controls backups of any particular computing device, the client software component communicatively coupled to the management software component and the media software components;

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device using ~~wherein the media software components, which~~ control the at least one backup device ~~and each of the media software components~~ comprising at least one software

module ~~directed~~ configured to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device;

recording a physical address on the backup device where particular information is located using the at least one software module which comprises an indexing software module ~~directed~~ configured to recording a physical address on the backup device where particular information is located; and

operating wherein at least one of either the media software components or the client software components ~~runs~~ on the second computing device.

79. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 78, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using wherein the media software components which each comprise at least a second software module ~~directed~~ configured to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, and managing the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device using the second software module which comprises a data mover software module ~~directed~~ configured to managing the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

80. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 78, further comprising backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using wherein the media software components which each comprise at least a second software module ~~directed~~ configured to controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, and controlling physical media of the storage device using the second software module which comprises a library software module ~~directed~~ configured to controlling physical media of the storage device.

81. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 78, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage device using wherein the management software component which comprises at least one software module ~~directed~~ configured to coordinate usage of the storage device.

82. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 81, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using wherein the at least one software module which comprises an application software

module ~~directed-configured~~ to ~~storeing~~ backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

83. (currently amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 81, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using ~~wherein-the~~ at least one software module which comprises an archive software module ~~directed-configured~~ to ~~tracking-the~~ location of data across library media.

84. (currently amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 81, further comprising managing system processes using ~~wherein-the~~ at least one software module which comprises a jobs software module ~~directed-configured~~ to ~~manageing~~ system processes.

85. (currently amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 81, further comprising tracking usage of the storage device using ~~wherein-the~~ at least one software module which comprises a media usage software module ~~directed-configured~~ to ~~tracking~~ usage of the storage device.

86. (currently amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 81, further comprising coordinating transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device using ~~wherein-the~~ at least one software module which comprises a data transfer software module ~~directed~~ configured to ~~coordinateing~~ the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

87. (currently amended) The ~~system method~~ of claim 78, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using ~~wherein-the~~ indexing software module ~~communicates the physical address to the management software component.~~